

The Kings Majesties DECLARATION

To both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

(Which He likewise recommends to
the consideration of all His loving
Subjects)

In Answer to that Declaration presented to him
by both Houses of Parliament at New-
market, the 9th of March, 1641



London, Printed for J. B. 1641



His Majesties Declaration to both Houses of Parliament.



Hough the Declaration lately presented to us, at *New-market*, from both Our Houses of Parliament, be of so strange a nature, in respect of what We expected (after so many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our People) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall Language to Princes, that We might well take a very long time to consider it. Yet the cleareness and uprightness of Our Conscience to God, & love to our Subjects, hath supplied Us with a speedy Answer, and Our unalterable Affection to Our People prevailed with Us, to suppress that Passion, which might well enough become Us, upon such an Invitation.

We have reconsidered Our Answer of the first of this Moneth at *Throabalds*, which is need to have given just cause of sorrow to Our Subjects. Whosoever looks over that Message (which was in effect to tell Us, That if we would not joine with them (in an Act which we conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdome) they would make a Law without Us, and impose it upon Our People) will not thinke that sudden Answer can be accepted to.

We have little encouragement to Replies of this nature, when we are told of how little value Our words are like to be with you, though they come accompanied with all the Actions of Love and Justice (where there is room for Actions to accompany them) yet we cannot but disavow the having any such evill Councell or Councillors about Us, to our knowledge, as are mentioned, and if any such be discovered, we will leave them to the Censure and Judgement of Our Parliament. In the meane time, We could wish, that Our own immediate Actions which We avow, and Our own Hope might be so much less dishonoured and wounded, under that common stile of Evill Councillours.

For Our faithfull and zealous affection to the true Protestant Profession

Profession, and Our resolution to concur with our Parliament in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery. We can say no more then We have already expressed in Our Declaration to all Our loving Subjects published in Jan. last, by the advice of Our Privy Councell, in which We endeavoured to make as lively a Confession of our Selfe, in this point, as We were able, being most assured that the constant Practice of our Life hath been answerable thereunto: And therefore We did rather expect a Testimony, and Acknowledgement of such Our Zeal and Piety, then those Expressions We meet with in this Declaration, of any designe of altering Religion in this Kingdome. And we do (out of the Innocency of Our Soule) wish, That the Judgements of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have, or had any such Designe.

As for the *Scott* troubles. We had well thought that those unhappy differences had bin wrapt up in perperuall silence, by the Act of Oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdomes, stops Our mouth from any other Reply then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland*, (so odious to all Christians) seems to have been framed and maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, We conjure both Our Houses of Parliament, and all Our loving Subjects whatsoever, to use all possible means to discover and find such out, that We may joyne in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But We must thinke Our selfe highly and causlessly injured in Our Reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expression of the *Irish* Rebels, any Letter from Count *Rosetti* to the Papists, for fasting and praying, or from *Freston Whitcombe*, of strange Speeches uttered in *Ireland*, shall beget any jealousy, or misapprehension in Our Subjects, of Our Justice, Piety and affection it being evident to all vnderstandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebels are not so capable of great advantage as by having their false discourses so far beleaved, as to raise Fears and Jealousies to the distraction of this Kingdome, the onely way to their security: And we cannot expresse a deeper sense of the suffering of Our poor protestant Subjects in that Kingdom, then we have done in Our often Messages to both Houses, by which

we have offered, and are still ready to venture Our Royall Person for their Redemption, well knowing, that as We are (in our own Interest) more concerned in them; so We are to make a strict Account to Almighty God for any neglect of Our duty, or their preservation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke our late Army, and the Army of the Scots, and to rayse a faction in the City of London, and other parts of the Kingdome; If it be said, as relating to us, we cannot without great indignation, suffer Our selfe to be reproached, to have intended the least force or threatening to our Parliament; as the being privie to the bringing up of the Army would imply: wheteas we call God to witnesse, we never had any such thought, or knew of any such resolution concerning our late Army.

For the Petition shewed to us By Captaine Legg, we well remember the same, and the occasion of that Conference: Captaine Legg being lately come out of the North, and repaireing to us at Whitehall, we asked him of the state of our Army, and (after some relation made of it) he told us, that the Commanders and Officers of the Armie had a mind to petition the Parliament, as others of our people had done, and shewed us the copy of a Petition, which we read, and finding it to be very humble, desiring the Parliament might receive no interruption in the Reformation of the Church and State, to the modell of Queen Elizabeths dayes; We told him, We saw no harme in it, Whereupon he replied, that he beleevved all the Officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir Jacob Ahley would be unwilling to signe it, out of feare it might displease Us. We then read the Petition over againe, and then observing nothing in matter or forme We conceived could possibly give iust cause of offence, We delivered it to him againe, bidding him give it to Sir Iacob Ahley, for whose satisfacti on We had writtten C. R. upon it, to testifie Our approbation; and VVith that the Petition might be seen and published, and then VVe beleevve it will appeare no dangerous one. nor a iust ground for the least jealousie, or misapprehension.

For Master Iermyn, it is well knowne that he was gone from Whitehall before VVe received the desire of both Houses for the restraint

restraint of Our servants: neither returned he thither, or passed over by any VVarrant granted by Us after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kymblton*, and the five Members of the house of Commons, VVe thought VVe had given so ample satisfaction in Our severall Messages to that purpose, that it should be no more pressed against us, being confident if the breach of Priviledge had beene greater then hath bin ever before offered, Our acknowledgement and retractation hath beene greater then ever King hath given, besides the not examining how many of Our Priviledges have beene invaded in defense and vindication of the other; And therefore VVe hoped Our true and earnest Protestation in Our answer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would so farre have satisfied you of your intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other designe then VVe there expressed.

But why the lifting of so many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstrued, VVe much marvell, when it is notoriously knowne; the tumults at *Westminster* were so great, and their demanours so scandalous and seditious, that VVe had good cause to suppose Our owne Person, and those of Our Wife and Children to be in apparent danger, and therefore VVe had great reason to appoint a Guard about us, and to accept the dutifull tender of the services of any of Our loving Subjects, which was all we did to the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, VVe assure you in the word of a King, that he had Our VVarrant to passe the Seas, and had left Our Court before We ever heard of the Vote of the house of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence would have beene excepted against.

What your advertisements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, or what the *Popes Nuncio* Sollicites the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to doe, or from what persons such informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of such persons have beene sifted and examined, we know not, but are confident, no sober honest man in Our Kingdomes can beleieve, that wee are so desperate or so senselesse, to entertaine such Designes, as would

would not onely bury this Our Kingdome in sudden distraction and ruine, but Our owne Name and Posterity in perpetuall scorn and infamy. And therefore we could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherewith the minds of Our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plain and easie, that nothing might stick with them with reflection upon Us, since you thought fit to publish it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainly & freely with you by way of Answer to the pirticular grounds of your Fears, We hope (upon a due consideration and weighing both together) you will not find the Grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding berwixt Us, or force you to apply your selves to the use of any other power then what the Law hath given you, the which we alwayes intend shall be the measure of Our owne power, and expect it shall be the rule of our Subjects Obedience.

Concerning Our Feares and Iea'sons, as Wee had no intention of accusing you, so are We sure no words spoken by Us (on the sudden) at *Theobalds* will bear that Interpretation We said for Our Residence neer you. VVe wish it might be so safe and Honourable, that VVe had no cause to absent Our self from *White-Hall*, And how this can be a breach of Priviledge of Parliament VVe cannot vnderstand, VVe explained Our meaning in Our Answer at *New-Market*, at the Presentation of this Declaration concerning the printed seditious pamphlets and Sermons, and the great tumults at *Westminster*: And VVe must appeal to you and all the world whether we might not justly suppose Our self in danger of either. And if we were now at *White-Hall*, what security have we, that the like shall not be againe, especially if any Delinquents of that Nature have been apprehended by the Ministers of Iustice, And been rescued by the people. And so as yet escape unpunished; If you have not been informed of the seditious words used in, and the circumstances of those Tumults, and will appoint some way for the Examination of them We will require some of Our Learned Council to attend with such evidence as may satisfie you, And till that be done, or some other course taken for Our security, you cannot (with reason) wonder that We intend not to be where We most desire to be.

And

And can there yet want evidence of Our hearty and importunate desire to joyn with our Parliament, and all Our faithfull Subjects, in defence of the Religion and publike good of the Kingdome; Have we given you no other earnest but words, to secure you of those desires; The very Remonstrance of the House of Commons (published in November last) of the state of the Kingdome allows vs a more reall Testimonie of our good Affections then words: That Remonstrance valued Our Acts of Grace and Justice at so high a rate, that it declared the Kingdome to be then a gainer, though it had charged it selfe by Bills of Subsidies and Pol-money, with leavy of 600000 pounds, besides the contracting of a Debt to Our Scots Subjects of 220000 pounds.

Are the Bills for the Trienniall Parliament, For relinquishing Our Title of Imposing upon Merchandize, and Power of Preising of Souldiers, For the taking away the Star-chamber, and high Commission Courts For the Regulating the Councell Table, but words? Are the Bills for the Forreign, the Starreny Courts, The Clerke of the Market, And the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the Lords House, but words? Lastly, what greater earnest of Our trust and reliance on Our Parliament could or can we give, then the passing of the Bill for the continuance of this present Parliament? The length of which VVe hope will never alter the nature of Parliaments, and the Constitution of this Kingdome, or invite Our Subjects so much to abuse our Confidence, as to esteem any thing fit for this Parliament to doe, which were not, if it were in Our power to dissolve it to morrow. And after all these, and many other Acts of Grace on Our part, that VVe might be sure of a perfect Reconciliation betwixt Us and all our Subjects) VVe have offered, and are still ready to grant a free and generall Pardon, as ample as yourselves shall thinke fit. Now if these be not reall expressions of the Affections of our Soule, for the publike good of Our Kingdome, VVe must confesse that We want skill to manifest them.

To conclude (although we thinke our Answer already full to that point) concerning our Returne to London: We are willing to Declare, that we looke upon it as a matter of so great weight,

owne inclinations and desires, that if all we can say or doe, can
raise a mutuall Confidence, the onely way with Gods blessing to
make us all happy, and by your encouragement the Lawes of
the Land, and the government of the City of *London*, may reco-
ver some life for our Security, we will overtake your desires, and
be as soone with you as you can wish. And in the mean time,
we will be sure, that neither the businesse of *Ireland*, or any o-
ther advantage for this Kingdome shall suffer through Our de-
fault, or by our absence: not being so farre from repenting the
Acts of Our Justice and Grace, which we have already perfor-
med to Our People, that we shall with the same Alacrity, bee
still ready to adde such new Ones, as may best advance the
peace, Honour, and prosperity of this Nation.

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